Reading Grade 8

The DC-CAS is a standards-based assessment. Based on performance, each student is classified as performing at one of four performance levels: advanced, proficient, basic, or below basic. The descriptions below provide a brief summary of typical performance for each level. The skills identified in each descriptor represent, but are not all-inclusive of, the skills a student is able to demonstrate at each performance level.

Below Basic

Students are able to use vocabulary skills, such as using words, simple sentence clues, and synonyms to determine meanings of words. Students are able to read some eighth grade informational and literary texts and can identify opinions, some facts and evidence to support an argument, and cause/effect relationships; draw simple conclusions based on stated information; relate literary works to their historical eras; explain how a text represents its genre; describe a character and an author's style; and make simple predictions about characters.

Basic

Students are able to use vocabulary skills, such as using words, complex sentence clues, and paragraph clues to determine meanings of new and multiple-meaning words. Students are able to read some eighth grade informational and literary texts and can restate facts and evidence, distinguish facts from opinions, respond to a set of instructions, make connections among texts, identify narrators and speakers, determine purposes for text, make comparisons of text to historical eras, describe characters and some elements of author's style, identify the effect of author's word choice, identify the conflict of a story, and use characters' words and actions to draw conclusions.

Proficient

Students are able to use vocabulary skills, such as using words, sentences, and paragraph context clues, as well as affixes, to determine meanings of words. Students are able to read eighth grade, complex informational and literary texts and can describe and elaborate on facts and evidence of an argument, evaluate information in a document, locate and determine purposes for inclusion of details, explain differences between two texts on the same topic, connect literature to art and history of its historical setting, analyze a character and how words create tone and mood, make predictions about characters, interpret descriptive phrases, and draw and support conclusions about characters.

Advanced

Students are able to use vocabulary skills, such as determining meaning of words by using affixes, root words, context clues, a variety of synonyms and antonyms, etymology clues; and recognizing idioms. Students are able to read eighth grade, complex informational and literary texts and can support an argument with facts and evidence, evaluate the adequacy of details to achieve a purpose, make inferences, use text features (e.g., footnotes and sidebars) to support understanding of text, compare literary works to art and history of their settings as well as to other literary works, interpret character traits and motivations, and draw conclusions about style, mood, tone, and meaning based on figurative language and author's word choice.

Mathematics Grade 8

The DC-CAS is a standards-based assessment. Based on performance, each student is classified as performing at one of four performance levels: advanced, proficient, basic, or below basic. The descriptions below provide a brief summary of typical performance for each level. The skills identified in each descriptor represent, but are not all-inclusive of, the skills a student is able to demonstrate at each performance level.

Below Basic
Students may be able to perform computations with decimals, perform appropriate numeric operations, not always in correct sequence, and partially solve real world problems; may be able to identify simple patterns; may be able to identify different types of angles, and use scale drawings to represent data and use tools to determine measurements.

Basic
Students perform computations with decimals, perform appropriate numeric operations in correct sequence, and use strategies to solve real world problems; identify and extend simple patterns, evaluate simple expressions; identify and measure different types of angles, use scale drawings to represent data and solve measurement problems in one or two dimensions for which the solution is easily recognized and straight forward.

Proficient
Students perform computations with decimals and rationals, perform operations on numbers in correct sequence, create and use simple expressions to solve real world problems; identify and extend patterns, and solve simple one-step equations; use properties of lines, triangles, and rectangles to identify and determine angles in figures not drawn to scale; and use scale drawings and histograms to represent data and solve simple measurement problems.

Advanced
Students perform computations with decimals and rationals, perform operations on numbers and parenthetical expressions in correct sequence, create and use simple expressions to model real world problems; identify and extend patterns, and solve one-step equations; use properties of lines, triangles, rectangles, and other polygons to identify and determine angles in figures not drawn to scale; and use scale drawings and histograms to represent data and solve measurement problems.